

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1799, PPP Extension Act.

Senate passed H.R. 1868, Medicare Sequester Act, as amended.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1791–S1850*

**Measures Introduced:** One hundred one bills and fifteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 965–1065, S.J. Res. 14–16, and S. Res. 136–147.

**Pages S1813–17**

#### Measures Reported:

S. Res. 114, commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development.

**Page S1812**

#### Measures Passed:

**PPP Extension Act:** By 92 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 140), Senate passed H.R. 1799, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, by the order of the Senate of Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments and motion proposed thereto:

**Pages S1792–S1800**

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 137), Kennedy Amendment No. 1401, to prohibit paycheck protection program loans and second draw loans for applicants convicted of a felony in relation to a riot or civil disorder during the 2-year period preceding the date of the application.

**Pages S1795–96**

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 138), Rubio Amendment No. 1405, to establish appropriate limitations on the Administrator of the Small Business Administration establishing new priorities for processing lender applications.

**Page S1796**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 64 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 139), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and all applicable sections of that Act and other budget related Acts and applicable budget resolutions, with respect to the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the bill was in violation of section 404(a) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go provision in S. Con. Res. 13, was not sustained, and thus the point of order fell.

**Page S1797**

**Medicare Sequester Act:** By 90 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 142), Senate passed H.R. 1868, to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Adopted:

Shaheen/Collins Amendment No. 1410, in the nature of a substitute.

**Pages S1801–04**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 141), Scott (FL) Amendment No. 1411 (to 1410), of a perfecting nature.

**Pages S1802–03**

**National Native Plant Month:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 109, designating April 2021 as “National Native Plant Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

**Page S1845**

**Remembering the 5th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks at Brussels Airport and the Maalbeek Metro Station:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 130, remembering the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks at Brussels Airport and the Maalbeek metro station in Belgium and honoring the victims of the terrorist attacks, and the resolution was then agreed to.

**Page S1845**

**National Poison Prevention Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 144, recognizing the week of March 21

through March 27, 2021, as “National Poison Prevention Week” and encouraging communities across the United States to raise awareness of the dangers of poisoning and promote poison prevention.

Page S1845

**National Asbestos Awareness Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 145, designating the first week of April 2021 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”.

Pages S1845–46

**Independence of Greece 200th Anniversary:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 34, recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

Page S1846

### Measures Considered:

**COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes.

Pages S1804–05

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Page S1804

Prior to the consideration of the motion to proceed, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1804

### Appointments:

**Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70–770, the appointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Senator Boozman.

Page S1846

**Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs of Kentucky.

Page S1846

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki):** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: Senators Wicker, Boozman, Rubio, and Tillis.

Page S1846

**Senate National Security Working Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appointed the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 117th Congress: Senators Feinstein (Administrative Co-Chair), Reed (Co-Chair), Menendez (Co-Chair), Durbin (Co-Chair), Cardin, Casey, Duckworth, Hassan, Sinema, and Warnock.

Pages S1846–47

**Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, March 29, 2021, at 11 a.m.; Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 10 a.m.; Monday, April 5, 2021 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 8, 2021, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Page S1849

**Trottenberg Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Page S1804

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, March 25, 2021, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Page S1804

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1804

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, April 12, 2021; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, March 25, 2021 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Page S1849

**Sherman Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

Page S1804

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Page S1804

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1804**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1804**

**Gensler Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission. **Page S1804**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Page S1804**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1804**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1804**

**Mallory Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality. **Page S1804**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission. **Page S1804**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1804**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1804**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S1839–40**

11 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

36 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

4 Space Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S1847–49**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Adrienne Todman, of the Virgin Islands, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services. **Page S1849**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2021. **Page S1850**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S1812**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S1812**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S1812–13**

**Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27:** **Page S1806**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1817–19**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S1819–38**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S1810–12**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S1838–39**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S1839**

**Record Votes:** Six record votes were taken today. (Total—142) **Pages S1796–97, S1800–04**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1849.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures, after receiving testimony from Diane Golzynski, Michigan Department of Education Office of Health and Nutrition Services, Lansing; Heidi M. Hoffman, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Colorado State WIC, Denver; Jessica Gould, Littleton Public Schools, Littleton, Colorado; Lee Savio Beers, American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington, D.C.; Reynaldo Green, Quality Care for Children, Atlanta, Georgia; and Carlos Rodriguez, Community FoodBank of New Jersey, Hillside.

## DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded open and closed sessions to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Christopher P. Maier, Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, General Richard D. Clarke, USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, Commander, United States Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, Chief, Central Security Service, all of the Department of Defense.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets, after receiving testimony from Amy K. Matsui, National Women's Law Center, Sharon Parrott, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, and Angela Rachidi, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Rory Cooper, Falls Church, Virginia.

## TAX CODE

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes, after receiving testimony from Abigail E. Disney, Fork Films, New York, New York; Gabriel Zucman, University of California, Berkeley; and Amy Hanauer, Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, Maya MacGuineas, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, and Scott A. Hodge, Tax Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad, after receiving testimony from Jeffery J. Lyash, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville; Chris Levesque, TerraPower, Bellevue, Washington; Scott Melbye, Uranium Energy Corporation, Castle Rock, Colorado, on behalf of the Uranium Producers of America; Amy C. Roma, Atlantic Council's Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition, Washington, D.C.; and J. Clay Sell, X-energy, Rockville, Maryland.

## INTERNATIONAL TAX POLICY

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment, after receiving testimony from Kimberly A. Clausing, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis, and Pamela F. Olson, former Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, both of the Department of the Treasury; Chye-Ching Huang, New York University School of Law The Tax Law Center, New York, New York; and James R. Hines, Jr., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

## COUP IN BURMA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy concluded a hearing to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma, after receiving testimony from former Representative Tom Andrews, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Fairfax, Virginia; Atul Keshap, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Scott Busby, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, both of the Department of State; and Kelley Currie, former United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Washington, D.C.

## NOMINATION

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Gillibrand, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities, after receiving testimony from Consuelo H. Wilkins, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee; Abigail Echo-Hawk, Seattle Indian Health Board, Seattle, Washington; Taryn Mackenzie Williams, Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C.; and Eugene A. Woods, Atrium Health, Charlotte, North Carolina.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2021.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **A HEARING TO REVIEW THE STATE OF BLACK FARMERS IN THE U.S.**

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.”. Testimony was heard from Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

### **LEADING BY ACTION: THE FIERCE URGENCY FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FOREIGN POLICY WORKFORCE**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing entitled “Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **CREATING EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Creating Equitable Communities Through Transportation and Housing”. Testimony was heard from Dorval R. Carter, President, Chicago Transit Authority, Illinois; and public witnesses.

### **LESSONS LEARNED: CHARTING THE PATH TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY POST-COVID-19**

*Committee on Education and Labor:* Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19”. Testimony was heard from Alberto M.

Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida; and public witnesses.

### **DISINFORMATION NATION: SOCIAL MEDIA’S ROLE IN PROMOTING EXTREMISM AND MISINFORMATION**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology; and Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a joint hearing entitled “Disinformation Nation: Social Media’s Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **ENDING EXPLOITATION: HOW THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM CAN WORK TO DISMANTLE THE BUSINESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 391, the “Global Health Security Act of 2021”; H.R. 1079, the “Desert Locust Control Act”; H.R. 1145, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes; H.R. 1500, to direct the Administrator of the USAID to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs; H.R. 1158, to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; H.R. 1083, the “Southeast Asia Strategy Act”; H.R. 1392, the “Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021”; H.R. 1464, the “Khashoggi Accountability Act”; H.R. 256, to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002; H.R. 2118, the “Securing America From Epidemics Act”; H. Res. 245, calling for renewed, decisive, and robust international collaboration and coordination to fight COVID-19 across Africa; and H.R. 1934, the “Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act”. H.R. 391 and H.R. 1464 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1145, H.R. 1500, H.R. 1158, H.R. 1083, H. Res. 245, H.R. 1079, H.R. 1934, H.R. 1392, H.R. 2118, and H.R. 256 were ordered reported, without amendment.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF A DIVERSE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary”. Testimony was heard from Frank J. Bailey, Bankruptcy Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Massachusetts; Edward M. Chen, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; Bernice B. Donald, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; James C. Ho, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; Peter N. Kirsanow, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Carlton W. Reeves, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi; and public witnesses.

**ROOTING OUT FRAUD IN SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAMS**

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled “Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs”. Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Inspector General, Department of Justice; William B. Shear, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; and Hannibal Ware, Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

**BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future”. Testimony was heard from Roderick Jackson, Laboratory Program Manager for Buildings Research at National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

**THE ADMINISTRATION’S PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

**RESTORING FAITH BY BUILDING TRUST: VA’S FIRST 100 DAYS**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VA’s First 100 Days”. Testimony was heard from Denis R. McDonough, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**EXAMINING PRIVATE EQUITY’S EXPANDED ROLE IN THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “Examining Private Equity’s Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D289)

H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals. Signed on March 24, 2021. (Public Law 117-4)

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled “SOF Culture and Climate: The Future of the Force”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Installation Resiliency: Lessons Learned from Winter Storm Uri and Beyond”, 3 p.m., Webex.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”, 3 p.m., Webex.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled “From Miranda to Gideon: A Call for Pretrial Reform”, 11 a.m., Webex.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Monday, March 29

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

2 p.m., Friday, March 26

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.



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